and (b) No, Sir. So, far, contracts covering 1120Km have been awarded.

(c) Do not arise.

Vallarpadam Trans-shipment Port HUB

2203. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Vallarpadam (Cochin) Trans shipment Port/Hub would become fully operational;

(b) how much of construction work of Vallarpadam trans-shipment Port is complete till date; and

(c) whether all our ships from the east coast and west ports go to Vallarpadam trans-shipment hub carrying cargo and would all the cargos be trans-shiped from this hub to and fro?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) As per the License Agreement signed by Cochin Port Trust with the Build Operate Transfer (BOT) operator, M/s India Gateway Terminal Private Limited, the BOT operator is obligated to commence commercial operations of Phase-I of the International Container Trans-shipment Terminal (ICTT) not later than twenty four (24) months from the date of commencement of construction works.

(b) The construction work for the ICTT Project has not commenced.

(c) Cochin Port has locational advantages as it is located in close proximity to the mainline 'East-West' shipping route. With the development of an International container trans-shipment terminal it is expected to handle container cargo, both international as well as Indian origin/bound cargo. However, inter-port movement of ships including to ICTT at Cochin Port is dependent primarily on operational economics.

Construction of Gwalior Nagar By Pass

†2204. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct Gwalior Nagar by pass at National Highway No. 3: and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, by when the construction work would be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work had been awarded on 31-5-2006 and is likely to commence in March, 2007.

Conversion of single lane highways into two lane

2205. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Highways that are single, of 3 metres carriageway in Central India in the States of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) please give the details of National Highways, which are single lane carriageway of 3 metres, please give the number of the highways and the length of the highways;

(c) by when all these National Highways would be converted into two lane of 7 metres width;

(d) whether it is aware that large number of accidents particularly in rainy season happen because of narrow National Highways; and

(e) whether it has ever been assessed the total loss of life and property such as bus, truck and such other vehicular losses that occured in the last five years in these States in terms of money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) There are 24 number of National Highways in Central India in the States of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh having single lane carriageway of 3 metres width in different stretches aggregating to a length of about 1250 Kms. Details are annexed as Statement (See below).

(c) Widening to 7 metres width in an aggregate length of 205 Kms. in different stretches has already been sanctioned and works are at different stages of progress. Widening of remaining stretches to 7 metres width will be carried out in a phased manner depending upon availability of funds and *inter-se* priority of works.